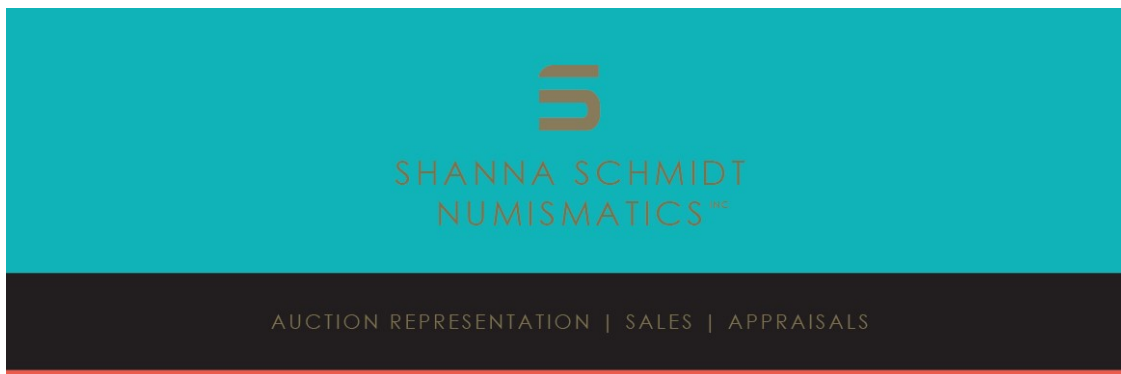


What's new at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc.

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Newsletter #32:

What's New at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc.

I hope everyone had a nice week. The devastation in Houston has been overwhelming so my heart goes out to the struggling people there. If you are in the U.S. (or even overseas) and receive this newsletter consider donating to the Red Cross. If you don't want to donate money there are others way to help such as donating old clothes. Here is a link to the site:

<https://www.redcross.org/donate/hurricane-harvey>

Now onto the numismatic world. There are lots of things just around the corner.

CNG MBS 106 (closing Sept 13)

I've started getting client bids for the CNG MBS 106. This is a rare opportunity when I will be viewing and present for the closing of their mail bid sale (note this is NOT a live auction). You still need to have a reasonable bid but getting your desired lots will be much easier for me since I will be in the CNG offices. Consider my representation if you are in taking part in the auction. I can discuss details if you would like. I leave for Lancaster, PA on Sept. 11 but I will be available anytime up and throughout the auction.

Paul-Francis Jacquier Auction 43 (Sept 15)

I'm not attending the Jacquier auction in person but I am available for phone bidding if you need. Please remember that if you are increasing your numismatic library that some duplicates of the BCD library are available in this auction. Worth a look!

Upcoming EAuctions

If you go onto the Sixbid or Numisbids site you will be shocked to see a new “auction house” offering coins. This new company is called Coinwiki. I counted 19 auctions of various coins from September 1-10. Perhaps I’m late to the game but I never heard of this company before. Turns out that Coinwiki is a subset of the bigger entity Catawiki. This appears to be much like Heritage in that all types of things are offered from cars to coins except that the auctions seem to be only online, where Heritage has live auctions. The coins available at least for ancients don’t appear to be of exceptional quality or rarity. Coinwiki makes its money on the buyers fees and I think anyone can upload material. I wasn’t completely impressed with the coins but it might be worth checking out as I didn’t get through the auctions.

CNG Esale 405 closes this coming Wednesday and I am taking bids for this auction. Please get in touch if you are interested.

London/Germany Trip (Sept 19-27)

I neglected to mention last week that the Baldwin’s of St. James auction (ancient portion) will be held on Sept. 22. The auction has 178 lots (only 6 ancient coins) but it will be held at the same location as Coinex so I will be available if someone needs me to bid.

Some of you received or will receive catalogs I sent for Roma (auction on Sept. 21) and Künker (ancient auction on Sept. 25). I ran out of catalogs but asked them to send me a few more so if you would like one and I still have it then please do let me know.

If you don’t want a catalog but still want to view the coins you can check out Numisbids or Sixbid.

Zürich, Switzerland October Trip (October 18-25)

I mentioned not long ago that this is auction season so I will be returning to Europe a few weeks after coming back. The much anticipated Nomos and NAC auctions will be taking place. Sincona will also have an auction but I’ve been told that it will not have ancient coins. If this isn’t the case I’ll let you know in the next newsletter! I’ve already asked both auction houses to send me at least 10 catalogs for customers. Therefore, please do let me know if I should send you one. If I don’t hear I typically send out catalogs to a small subset of customers. I can always request more catalogs so informing me of your interest is all you really have to do.

I will be previewing some of the NAC auction lots when I travel to London. I’m told that this auction has NO Greek coins. I was a bit surprised to say the least. I’ve come to expect Greek coins at every NAC auction. The last part of the George LaBorde collection (Roman) will be auctioned, another aureii collection with no name attached and finally another part of the Ploil collection.

Auction Representation Services

I get numerous questions about my auction representation services. My services are at little to no cost to you. I fly to several auctions during the year, take part online or phone bid for my customers. I never charge for my travel costs if you win or not. My services include research before the auction, discussions with you on acceptable bidding levels, viewing notes (if I am present at the auction), live bidding on the floor

and shipping and importation of lots. Going through a dealer makes for a much more enjoyable auction experience (who really wants to get up in the middle of the night or bid more than you wanted to because you couldn't help yourself). Please get in touch with me if you want me to clarify my terms.

Coin of the Week <http://www.shannaschmidt.com/coin-of-the-week/>

THRACO-MACEDONIAN. Uncertain mint (perhaps of the Derrones?). c. 520-500 BC
AR Tetradrachm, 13.54g (36mm). Bull walking left on ground line, head lowered /
Small incuse square with irregular surfaces.

Pedigree: Ex Prospero Collection, The New York Sale XXVII, Baldwin / Markov / M&M, 4 January 2012, lot 252. Purchased privately from Athena, Munich, 27 October 1989

Price: \$11,500

This extremely interesting coin is well known to the numismatic community as it was in the amazingly successful Prospero auction which took place January 2012. Part of the success of the auction came from a certain Sheik of Qatar that participated. That said, from the get-go, this coin was under immediate scrutiny regarding authenticity. It bore striking similarities in theme to the Thraco-Macedonian coinage with a bull, that were struck presumably at the same time, however, the flattened flan and the stylistic differences in the bull raised suspicion (although it should be pointed out that the coin type has been known since the turn of the 20th century). In the end, the coin was purchased (or bought in) at well below the \$15,000 estimate.

Why the coin was so suspicious is also an enigma. A similar coin was shown in the Svoronos analysis in L'Hellénisme primitif de la Macédoine in 1919, as well as a 1980 Auctiones A.G. Basel auction (30 Sept. 1980, lot 83). In the ANS Museum Notes (1988), Kagan goes into detail on the weight standards of the type based on a 1953 analysis by Doris Raymond (ANSNM 126, pp. 23-24) which suggests three weight standards. This particular coin fits into her series 2 Macedonian standard of 13.09g. The logical minting city was assumed to be somewhere in the Thraco-Macedonian region. In any case, this coin would be among the earliest ever struck in the area.

The coin is indeed an "archaic bovine curiosity" as Kagan so aptly titled his article in 1988. As for authenticity, the coin has been inspected by many dealers at this point and the overwhelming feeling is that this coin is authentic. Because the coin has run in several auctions the price has continued to drop but the specimen is extremely interesting in its historical context and should not be ignored.

References: Svoronos, HPM 33, pl. II, 19 = Traité IV 1227, pl. CCCXXVI, 20 = J. Kagan, "Some Archaic Bovine Curiosities," MN 33 (1988), p. 41, 4, pl. 16 (same rev. die); cf. Gorny 52, 148; SNG ANS -

Grade: Exceedingly rare - only two other known specimens. Struck on a very broad flan. Non-threatening crack at 7h on obverse and slightly rough at same spot. Porous metal. Toned Choice VF

gk1145

If you are interested in this coin please email shanna@shannaschmidt.com

If you are interested in any other coins I have available please visit my website www.shannaschmidt.com

Until next week!
Shanna



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